4/9/70

Paul and Gary only,

It is awful to waste time this way, and I do not encourage you to interpret it as reflecting a belief the Skolnick nastiness is certain doom, but there have been a few things of which I think I should tell you, in case they may have meaning.

I had a call a little while ago from one of my media friends. He has interviewed Skolnick twice, on tape, and I'll be getting the tapes. The seond one continued after the engineer left and that part is not on tape. While Skolnick began with the very nicest condenscending charities about the sleeless buffs, by the time he lost his cool it came out that we are all self-seeking incompetents, but that will all change now, now that he is on the bridge, etc.

It seems he had been working on this particular network man for some time, in the hope of getting the network to take his big steal. The network wouldn' not have in any event and my friend didn't go for it either. It seems that Skolnick then attached himself to WCFL, which my friends describes as the least like station in the world for such an interest. It is Mayor Daley's mouthpiece. It is owned by the Chicago Federation of Labor and is one of the older stations. Older than either of you by about twice.

They fire people for the slightest unorthodoxy, and when you understand these are the people who find little difficulty thereafter signing on the bigger, including network stations, you can understand a) these are competents and b) anything but radical. If such are unacceptable to WVFL, need I make further effort at description or characterization.

Yet this is the station that backed Skolnich. It doesn't figure, unless one is willing to think the worst. However, there are also flukes, and this may be one. We'll have to wait and see.

Now it happens that as soon as the story broke I immediately backgrounded this friend. Sow when he interviewed Skolnick again, he knew what Skolnick did not and knew what to ask that Skolnick could not answer-and the answers. He pretended to be from Hicksville onthe subject and, when Skolnick wondered alound, he said these were the obvious, customary questions. For example, if you sued the Archives for suppression, what had you asked for that you had been denied? And so forth. Skolnick flubbed this and similar questions, like exhausting administrative remedies, rather badly. On the rest it was all evasion. Which eliminates more doubt where, really, none existed. He wound up asking my innocent friend if he were an FBI or Secret Service agent. My friend wondered aloud at such suspicion. Could it happen? Of course, the press was loaded with agents- the full paranoia we know so well. But my friend was not at all flattered, Skolnick having recently called a judge who ruled against him a CIA agent/ Familiar?

However, the Daley connection may be worth pondering. And as best I can I'm closing doors. It is possible Skolnick's backers will be pressing him to abandon the suit. With his egom(my opinion of its enormity is confirmed by this reporter), that may be an unwelcome suggestion. If it doesn't happen there are other possibilities that now need no consideration. The possibilities have been offered me and declined for the moment. The invitation is said to be open. With the damage involved, I presume it will remain open, money being the highest principle.

I'll be getting a copy of the suit. If it is worth your concern I'll provide copies. And oh, yes, Bud was all for this guy until I saw him day before yesterday. He provided his Bolden file. Hurriedly,